

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 158799

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IATF:JBROH-KAHN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 158799

STADIS////////////////////////////////

LIMDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 158799 ACTION SEOUL TAIPEI HONG KONG
KUALA LUMPUR BANGKOK MANILA JAKARTA TOKYO PARIS INFO CAN-
BERRA OTTAWA USUN NEW YORK RANGOON VIENTIANE WELLINGTON CINCPAC-
REP GUAM 04 JUL

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 158799

STADIS

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, VS, CB

SUBJECT: INDOCHINA REFUGEES

FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM THE DIRECTOR INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE

I WISH TO THANK YOU FOR THE FINE JOB THAT
YOUR RESPECTIVE STAFFS HAVE PERFORMED IN THE FACE OF THE IN-
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PAGE 02 STATE 158799

FLUX OF VIETNAMESE AND CAMBODIAN REFUGEES. WE ARE VERY MUCH

AWARE OF THE STRAIN PLACED UPON YOU ALL AT A BUSY TIME OF THE YEAR NOT TO NEGLECT TO MENTION THE STRAINS PLACED ON BILATERAL RELATIONS.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS MESSAGE IS TO INFORM YOU OF OUR CURRENT EFFORTS AND PLANS CONCERNING THE REMAINDER OF THE REFUGEES OUTSIDE THE U. S. REFUGEE SYSTEM. OVER THE PAST NINE WEEKS, WE HAVE SUCCEEDED IN BROADENING THE PAROLE CRITERIA WHICH HAS PERMITTED US TO TAKE AN INCREASING NUMBER OF REFUGEES FROM INDOCHINA. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE INEVITABLY CHANGING NATURE OF THIS PROGRAM HAS AT TIMES SEEMED CONFUSING AND CONTRADICTIONARY AS WELL AS ADDING A SIZEABLE BURDEN UPON THOSE WHO MUST DO THE SELECTION AND PROCESSING.

WE ESTIMATE THAT THERE ARE SOME 18,000 TO 20,000 VIETNAMESE AND CAMBODIANS LOCATED IN KOREA, JAPAN, HONG KONG, TAIWAN, THAILAND, MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORE. UNDER CURRENT CRITERIA FOR PAROLE INTO THE U. S., WE ESTIMATE SOME 50 PERCENT OF THOSE LOCATED OUTSIDE OF THE U. S. SYSTEM WILL BE ELIGIBLE TO ENTER THE U. S. WE ARE NOW IN THE PROCESS OF RECOMMENDING TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL THAT THE PAROLE CRITERIA BE FURTHER BROADENED TO PERMIT US TO TAKE THOSE NOT NOW COVERED AND UNABLE TO BE RESETTLED IN COUNTRIES OF FIRST REFUGE.

THOUGH WE ARE TAKING THE GREAT BULK OF THOSE WHO HAVE FLED THE COMMUNIST TAKEOVER OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA WE ARE NEVERTHELESS COUNTING HEAVILY UPON THE COMMITMENTS OF NATIONS SUCH AS FRANCE AND CANADA TO TAKE A SIGNIFICANT SHARE OF THE BURDEN. WE ALSO HOPE THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THAILAND WILL AGREE TO RESETTLE MANY OF THE PEASANTS AND TRIBESMEN WHO HAVE SOUGHT SHELTER THERE FROM CAMBODIA AND LAOS. THIS MAY VERY WELL BE POSSIBLE IF THE RTG IS GRANTED INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE AND THE HIGH VISIBILITY MEMBERS OF THE REFUGEE GROUPS ARE RESETTLED ELSEWHERE.

AS FOR ETHNIC LAO REFUGEES IN THAILAND WHO HAVE REQUESTED ASYLUM IN U. S., AND THOSE ELSEWHERE IN WORLD WHO MAY DO SO IN FUTURE, DEPARTMENT AND JUSTICE OFFICIALS ARE NOW AC-
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PAGE 03 STATE 158799

TIVELY DISCUSSING MODALITIES OF PAROLE. AFTER AGREEMENT IS REACHED, WE PLAN JOINTLY TO DISCUSS PROGRAM WITH APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES. ONCE THEY ACQUIESCE, ATTORNEY GENERAL PLANS TO BEGIN PAROLING IN LAO, WHICH HE HAS NOT DONE UP TILL NOW WHILE AWAITING CONGRESSIONAL VIEWS. DEPARTMENT HAS ALSO REQUESTED PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES WHICH IS NOW BEING GIVEN FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION BY OMB. SISCO

UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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